Jackie and 'Look' Near Settlement on Book

Jacqueline Kennedy and Look magazine are close to a settlement on the disputed tapes William Manchester used in his book, "The Death of a President."

A source close to Mrs. Kennedy told The New York Post that a meeting between representatives of both sides today could resolve the fight short of the court action filed by the Kennedys last week.

The source said that it was not too late for Look to make the deletions which Mrs. Kennedy is seeking in the first instalment of the 80,000-word digest, for which the magazine paid Manchester $665,000.

When Mrs. Kennedy's objections to portions of the manuscript were first publicly confirmed last week, the magazine said that its Jan. 10 issue, containing the opening instalment, was on the presses and could not be changed. This apparently is no longer true.

The Post's source stressed that the requested change involved only "very personal" portions of the 10-hour tape which Mrs. Kennedy made with Manchester and in no way involved anything bearing on the relations between President Johnson and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who is a party to a law suit against Look and Harper & Row, publishers of the book.

Harper & Row is not involved in today's discussions, and meetings between the Kennedy side and the book publisher will be held later.

Manchester presumably has agreed to go along with Look on the requested changes, since his contract with the magazine gives him final say over what is carried in the digested version.

Despite the continuing talks, Mrs. Kennedy's lawyers were going ahead today with plans to file new court papers to back up the injunction suit. The papers, drawn by former federal judge Simon Rifkind, reportedly will cite legal precedents for Mrs. Kennedy's charges of breach of contract against Manchester, Look and Harper & Row.

The legal basis for Mrs. Kennedy's lawsuit also will be outlined by Rifkind's "memorandum of law," pending a hearing of the case by Supreme Court Justice Streit next Tuesday.

More fuel was added to the controversy today, by former White House press aide Malcolm Kilduff, who was with Mrs. Kennedy on the chaotic Dallas-to-Washington flight after the assassination.

Kilduff told CDN reporter William J. Eaton that he is awainting Manchester's version of those troubled hours, and said:

"If he distorts it, I'll come out with the facts."

Kilduff said he talked with Manchester for six or seven hours about the Dallas events, with the author's assurance that nothing would be published until late 1968.

When he heard that Look would serialize the book in 1967, Kilduff said, "I felt a little bitter about it." He wrote a protesting letter to Manchester, and got a reply dated last Sept. 2.

It disclosed that later editions

Continued on Page 11

Jackie and 'Look' Near a Settlement

Continued from Page 3

of "The Death of a President" may contain material not included in the first printing.

"All material is being treated with taste and reverence for history," Kilduff said Manchester wrote him, "and wiser men than the author are sitting in judgment on the text.

"And years later, perhaps another edition will be published with material that is not published in the first edition."

Kilduff has refused to talk at length about the reported bitterness between the Kennedy and Johnson factions aboard Air Force One.

"I consider that privileged information," he told Eaton. "I've turned down a lot of money to write articles about that."

Speculation that Mrs. Kennedy might be liable for $5,000,000 in damages—if Look is forced to scrap its Jan. 10 issue but then wins an appeal of the verdict—is being discounted on the theory that she would almost certainly be bonded against suchdamages.

The defendants in the suit have until tomorrow to answer Mrs. Kennedy's charges. Some legal experts believe Look may cite a clause in Manchester's agreement with Sen. Robert Kennedy saying the Kennedys would not try to prevent sale of the serial rights—interpreting this as permission to Manchester to dispose of the rights at his discretion.